



STATE OF MISSOURI
MISSOURI ETHICS COMMISSION
P. O. BOX 1254
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102

573/751-2020
1-800/392-8660

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 18, 2005

The Missouri Ethics Commission has issued an Order imposing a civil penalty of \$507,936.00 and ordering restitution of \$95,000.00 for violations of Chapter 130, RSMo.

The violations were incurred by Mr. Charles Monroe of Jackson County as Treasurer of the continuing committee "Community Urban Progress", case number A4177.

Pursuant to section 130.021.5, RSMo, this continuing committee was established in late 2002 for the purpose of receiving contributions and making expenditures to influence or attempt to influence the actions of voters. The committee received only two individual contributions – \$21,000 on November 4, 2002 and \$75,000 on November 5, 2002. Each of the contributions was received from the Missouri Democratic State Committee.

According to section 130.021.4, RSMo, all contributions received and all expenditures must be deposited into, and all expenditures must be made from, an official depository account established in a financial institution within the State of Missouri. Also, contributions received by a committee shall not be co-mingled with any funds of an agent of the committee. Section 130.034.1, RSMo, prohibits the conversion of committee funds for personal use.

Following an investigation by the Missouri Ethics Commission staff, which included discussion with Mr. Monroe, the Commission determined that a probable cause violation had occurred. A hearing was scheduled and conducted on January 21, 2005 in Jefferson City. Mr. Monroe was notified of the hearing, but failed to appear.

Upon conclusion of the hearing, the Missouri Ethics Commission determined that there had been violations in three specific areas comprising 14 counts. Those are:

- A. Failure to file appropriate campaign finance disclosure reports. Counts 1-6 and 10-13.
- B. Co-mingling of committee funds by transfer to personal accounts of Mr. Monroe. Counts 7-9.
- C. Conversion of committee funds for personal use. Count 14.

This penalty fee is the largest ever assessed by the Missouri Ethics Commission.